

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 894

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to honor Sheriff Jim Hammond on the occasion of his retirement from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond is one such individual who has earned the respect of not only the people of his county but his fellow law enforcement colleagues in the State of Tennessee and beyond; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious and exemplary career of more than fifty years in law enforcement, Sheriff Hammond has distinguished himself amongst his peers and has dedicated his life to serving his fellow man and his country; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Hammond began his career in public service at a young age when he accepted a position as a legal service officer in the Hamilton County Juvenile Court in 1965; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, at the height of the Vietnam War, Sheriff Hammond enlisted in the United States Armed Services and joined the United States Navy, where he was assigned to Submarine Flotilla Six; and

WHEREAS, upon his honorable discharge in 1971, Sheriff Hammond returned to civil service, once again serving in the halls of the Hamilton County Juvenile Justice System; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Sheriff Jim Hammond was appointed by then Hamilton County Sheriff H.Q. Evatt to serve as his chief deputy; never one to back down from a challenge, Sheriff Hammond accepted the appointment as chief deputy and began a career with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office that spanned until his retirement in 1994; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement, Sheriff Hammond was appointed as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at the University of Tennessee, where he served until he was recruited by the United States Department of Justice's prestigious International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program in 1995; and

WHEREAS, he served with the Department of Justice for the next ten years, traveling the world and teaching thousands of law enforcement personnel in Haiti, Russia, Colombia, Albania, Jordan, Romania, and numerous other foreign nations; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Sheriff Hammond took on yet another life-changing opportunity when he and his wife, Jeannie, moved to Jordan, where they lived for three years while he served as the Chief of Operational Policing and Training Manager of the prestigious Jordanian International Training Center in Amman; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the Middle East, Sheriff Hammond developed a strong and beneficial understanding of Middle Eastern cultures and faith that served him well in his later endeavors, especially as American law enforcement agencies were further subjected to the threat of global terrorism; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to the United States in 2006, Sheriff Hammond served in several positions in the private security field as the Director of Security for Golden Gallon and the Director of Training and Safety for the ERM Corporation; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Sheriff Jim Hammond ran for sheriff of Hamilton County during a special election; throughout the subsequent fourteen years, Sheriff Hammond served three terms as sheriff and instituted major changes to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, including the modernization and expansion of numerous divisions and units and technological upgrades to aging equipment and computer systems, and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Sheriff Hammond announced that he would not seek a fourth term as sheriff, signaling the end of an era; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Jim Hammond has honorably served his county, the State of Tennessee, and this Nation for more than fifty years, and his service has earned the respect and grateful acknowledgement of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Sheriff Jim Hammond on the occasion of his retirement after more than fifty years of outstanding public service to this State and the citizens of Hamilton County and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.